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(54) Title: PRODUCTION OF LOW MOLECULAR WEIGHT ETHYLCELLULOSE

(57) Abstract: Ethylcellulose having an ethoxyl content of from 40 to 55 percent and a viscosity of from 1 to 100 mPa's, measured as a 5 weight percent solution in toluene and ethanol at a volume ratio of 80:20 at 25°C, is produced by depolymerization of an ethylcellulose having an ethoxyl content of from 40 to 55 percent and a viscosity of from 4 to 400 mPa's in the presence of gaseous hydrogen halide to achieve a reduction in viscosity of the ethylcellulose of at least 10 percent.



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